

AMENDMENT

Please amend the pending application in accordance with the following particulars.

In the Claims

The claims are amended as shown on the following pages under the heading LIST OF CURRENT CLAIMS. The list shows the status of all claims presently in the application and is intended to supersede all prior versions of the claims in the application. Any cancellation of claims is made without prejudice or disclaimer.

LIST OF CURRENT CLAIMS

1-18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) A method of inserting a punctal plug into a punctum canaliculus, the punctal plug comprising a shaft, a tip portion attached to one end of the shaft, a brim attached to the other end of the shaft, and a fine thread removably inserted into a part of the punctal plug, so as to be used in first and second manners, wherein in the first manner said method comprising the steps of:

inserting said punctal plug into a punctum canaliculus;

thereafter, if the punctal plug is not placed in a proper position, the punctal plug is pulled out by simultaneously pulling both ends of the fine thread so that the punctal plug is pulled out of the punctum canaliculus, and then reinserting said punctal plug into a punctum canaliculus; and in the second manner

if the punctal plug is placed in the proper position the thread is pulled out of the punctal plug so as to be removed from the punctal plug by pulling one end of the fine thread so that the thread is pulled out of the punctal plug and then removed from the punctal plug, wherein the thread has a diameter of 0.05 mm or less.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of inserting a punctal plug as defined in Claim 19, wherein the brim is disc-shaped.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of inserting a punctal plug as defined in claim 19, wherein the diameter of the brim is 0.4 mm or less.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of inserting a punctal plug as defined in claim 20, wherein the diameter of the brim is 0.4 mm or less.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of inserting a punctal plug as defined in claim 19, wherein a protuberance is attached to the tip portion.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of inserting a punctal plug as defined in claim 20, wherein a protuberance is attached to the tip portion.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of inserting a punctal plug as defined in claim 21, wherein a protuberance is attached to the tip portion.

26. (Currently Amended) The method of inserting a punctal plug as defined in claim 19, wherein the diameter of the thread is 0.02 - 0.05 mm.

27. (Currently Amended) A method of punctal plug, for insertion of a punctal plug into a punctum-canalculus, the punctal plug comprising [[:]] a shaft, a tip portion attached to one end of the shaft, a brim attached to the other end of the shaft, and a fine thread for removable insertion thereof into one of said tip portion, said shaft, and said brim, or into said tip portion and shaft, or into said shaft and said brim, wherein both ends of the fine thread extend out of the punctal plug; said fine thread is 0.05 mm or less in diameter and is used to pull out the brim, which is first lodged in the canaliculus, by

said method including the steps of:

inserting said punctal plug into a punctum canaliculus;

thereafter, if the punctal plug is not placed in a proper position, pulling two ends of the fine thread so that and pulling the brim can be pulled out of the canaliculus, and wherein both ends of the fine thread extend out of the punctal plug in such a manner that

thereafter, if the punctal plug is placed in the proper position, pulling one end of the fine thread can be pulled and pulling the fine thread out of the punctal plug by pulling one end of the fine thread.

28. (Currently Amended) The method punctal plug defined in claim 27, wherein said fine thread is 0.05 mm or less in diameter and is used to pull out the brim, which is first lodged in the canaliculus, by pulling two ends of the fine thread so that the brim can be pulled out of the canaliculus is disc-shaped.

29. (Currently Amended) The method punctal plug defined in claim 27, wherein the diameter of the brim is 0.4 mm or less.

30. (Currently Amended) The method punctal plug defined in claim 27, wherein a protuberance is attached to the tip portion.

31. (Currently Amended) The method punctal plug defined in claim 27, wherein the brim, the shaft, and the tip portion are reinforced by a reinforcement member.

32. (Currently Amended) The method punctal plug defined in claim 27, wherein the plug has at least one hole allowing the fine thread to penetrate the plug through the tip portion, the shaft, or the brim.